



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Our Endangered Species Program and How It Works With Landowners

The Endangered Species Program conserves endangered and threatened species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. As of May 2003, there were 1,263 U.S. species listed as endangered or threatened, 249 candidate species and 36 species proposed for listing. Conserving endangered and threatened species is necessary to preserve our natural heritage for future generations and to maintain our quality of life. Conserving ecosystems benefits all users of ecosystem resources and is essential to maintaining our nation's long term economic prosperity.

Our Program's priorities are:

- Preventing extinction.
- Recovering species that are listed.
- Making listing species unnecessary.
- Providing quality customer service to Federal, State, and local governments and private individuals to assist them in conserving endangered species while meeting their social and economic objectives.

Endangered Species Program Elements

■ Through the **Candidate Conservation** program, the Service, in partnership with public agencies, private organizations, and landowners, works to reduce the threats to declining species, and thus avoid listing. By acting early before a species becomes imperiled, the Service can reduce the costs of recovery and maintain land use flexibility for landowners.

■ Through the **Listing** program, the Service follows Federal rulemaking procedures and specific ESA requirements to determine whether to list a species. A formal peer review process and an opportunity for public comment ensure that the Service obtains the best available scientific information to support its decisions.

When necessary, essential species habitat is protected through a critical habitat designation at the time of or soon after listing. Once listed, the species is afforded the full range of protections available under the ESA. These protections include prohibitions on killing, harming or otherwise taking a species as well as restrictions on import/export to prevent trade-related declines.

■ Through the **Consultation** program, the Service works with private landowners and other non-Federal entities to develop Habitat Conservation Plans that authorize the incidental take of listed species. The HCP process allows private economic development to proceed while promoting listed species conservation. Also through this program, the Service works with other Federal agencies to ensure that their activities and the activities they authorize are compatible with species needs.

■ Through the **Recovery** program, the Service develops partnerships with Federal, State, and local agencies, tribes, researchers, conservation organizations, businesses, landowners, and individuals to conserve listed species. Recovery efforts include a wide range of management actions, such as controlled propagation and habitat protection and restoration, that reduce threats or otherwise benefit populations so they will stabilize and ultimately increase. A species is considered for delisting once it recovers to the point where it no longer needs the ESA's special protections.

Assistance to Landowners

According to a 1993 study by the Association for Biodiversity Information and The Nature Conservancy, half of listed species have at

Endangered species are defined by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as those species that are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range. Threatened species are those species that are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

least 80% of their habitat on private lands. Because of listed species' dependence on private lands, private landowner participation in endangered species conservation is critical to successful species recovery. Several programs provide mechanisms for increased cooperation with private landowners, tribes, State and local governments, industry, and agricultural interests:

■ The **Safe Harbor Policy** encourages voluntary management for listed species to promote recovery on non-Federal lands by giving assurances to the landowners that no additional future regulatory restrictions will be imposed.

■ The **Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances Policy** provides incentives for non-Federal property owners to conserve candidate species, thus potentially making listing unnecessary.

■ **Habitat Conservation Planning** allows private landowners to develop land supporting listed species provided they undertake conservation measures. The **No Surprises Policy** assures participating landowners that they will incur no additional mitigation requirements beyond those they agreed to in their Habitat Conservation Plans, even if circumstances change.

Incentive and Grants Programs

■ **The Private Stewardship Program (\$9.9M)** provides grants and other assistance on a competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in local, private, and voluntary conservation efforts that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk-species. A diverse panel of representatives from State and Federal government, conservation organizations, agriculture and development interests, and the science community assess applications and make recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior, who awards the grants.

■ **The Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund** (section 6 of the ESA) provides funding (\$80.5M) to States and Territories to participate in a wide array of conservation projects on non-Federal lands for candidate, proposed and listed species. States and Territories must contribute 25% of the estimated program costs of approved projects, or 10% when two or more States or Territories implement a joint project. A State or Territory must enter into a cooperative agreement with the Service to receive grants. Most States and Territories have entered into these agreements for both plant and animal species. For FY 2003, funding will be available to implement conservation projects for listed and species at risk (*Conservation Grants* \$7.5M); integrating habitat conservation into local land use planning through development of Habitat Conservation Plans (*Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants* \$6.6M); furthering species conservation through acquisition of land and easements associated with approved Habitat Conservation Plans (*HCP Land Acquisition Grants* \$51.1M); and acquiring lands essential to the recovery of listed species (*Recovery Land Acquisition Grants* \$12.7M).

Looking Ahead

By building strong partnerships and initiating early and collaborative conservation efforts, the Service can best achieve the purpose of the Endangered Species Act to conserve endangered and threatened species and the ecosystems upon which they depend.

Contact Us

Want more information on a particular endangered species or to enter into a partnership with us? Please contact the Regional Office which handles the State(s) in which you are interested. If they can not help you, they will gladly direct you to the nearest local Service office or in the direction you need.

Washington D.C. Office

Endangered Species
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 420
Arlington, VA 22203
<http://endangered.fws.gov>

Chief, Division of Conservation and Classification: Christine Nolin,
703/358 2171

Chief, Division of Consultation, HCPs, Recovery, and State Grants:
Patrick Leonard, 703/358 2171

Chief, Division of Partnerships and Outreach: Claire Cassel, 703/358 2390

Region One — Pacific

Eastside Federal Complex
911 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland OR 97232-4181
<http://pacific.fws.gov>

Chief, Division of Endangered Species: Wendi Weber, 503/231 6158

Region Two — Southwest

P.O. Box 1306, Rm 4012
Albuquerque, NM 87102
<http://southwest.fws.gov>
EndangeredSpecies

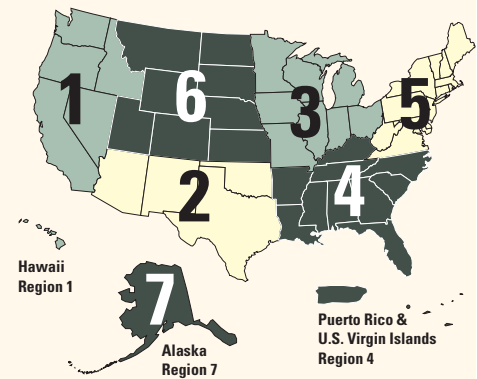
Chief, Division of Endangered Species: Acting Stuart Leon,
505/248 6657

Region Three — Great Lakes, Big Rivers

Bishop Henry Federal Building
One Federal Drive
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111-4056
<http://midwest.fws.gov>

Chief, Ecological Services Operations:
T. J. Miller, 612/713 5334

Regional Office Boundaries



Region Four — Southeast

1875 Century Boulevard
Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30345
<http://southeast.fws.gov>

Chief, Endangered Species:
Gloria Bell, 404/679 7100

Region Five — Northeast

300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589
<http://northeast.fws.gov>

Chief, Division of Endangered Species: Paul Nickerson,
413/253 8615

Region Six — Mountain Prairie

134 Union Boulevard
Lakewood CO 80228
<http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov>

Division of Ecological Services:
Jill Parker, 303/236 7400 Ext. 242

Region Seven — Alaska

1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199
<http://alaska.fws.gov>

Division of Endangered Species:
Sue Detwiler, 907/786 3868

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